COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF VRISCHIGAM 1102.

Friday, the $\frac{\textit{3rd of December 1926.}}{\textit{18th of Vrischigam 1102.}}$

The Council re assembled in the Town Hall, Ernakulam, at 11-30 a. m. on the 3rd of December 1926 corresponding to the 18th of Vrischigam 1102, the Diwan being in the Chair. Messrs. S. S. Koder, K. Krishna Menon, Lonappan Chakkola, P. Munda Vaidyan, Poulo Mampilli and H. J. Walmesly were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The bund in the Kurumali river.

159. Mr. S. F. Nunez.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) when the bund on the southern side of the Kurumali river was last repaired;

(b) which department is at present in charge of this bund;

(c) whether the existence of certain breaches in this bund and the pressing need for repairing the same have been brought to the notice of the Government by the people of the locality; and what action has been taken thereon?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) In 1101 M. E.

(b) The Public Works Department.

(c) Yes. The Government are of opinion that the closing of the breaches alone will not be sufficient. The schemes for proper and efficient drainage of the locality during floods are being investigated by the P. W. Department.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—When did the investigation begin? How many years ago was the investigation first begun?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The investigation was first begun in 1091, and then it was all along thought that it would be well to use the Enamakkal lake as a flood moderator. The present Enamakkal vent creates some insurmountable difficulties. We are going to increase the vent-way at Enamakkal, and then it will be possible to utilise the Enamakkal lake as a flood moderator. The question now of relieving the flood distress in these areas has remained a difficult problem. Now, we are collecting sufficient hydraulic data for discharging the additional water.

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President.—Will that be an entirely satisfactory solution? The main point is that this flood water must be allowed to escape, instead of being confined in a narrow area, so that it may not overflow and injure the paddy fields.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—If we are able to do that, it would go a long way in solving this problem.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—May I know the extent of the locality which is affected by the floods, the acreage under paddy cultivation and the probable loss sustained by the parties when there was no protection?

President.—The Chief Engineer may not be able to obtain the figures with regard to the extent, acreage, costs, etc.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—I only wanted to make the Government understand the grievances which are felt by the people in this matter. May I know what time it will take for finishing the investigation?

President.—I do not think the Chief Engineer will be justified in promising any definite period. If he could assure, I have no objection. The time limit is of extreme importance in matters like these.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—The time limit is of extreme importance in matters like these, and what our real grievance is that, whenever important questions are brought to this House, we are not given any satisfactory answers. Of course, we can understand the Government's difficulties in the collection of materials and statistics, and so on. It is a matter that we, non officials, are fully aware of and alive to. At the same time we have got a privilege and responsibility to the country at large and to the public. If you do not allow me to put supplementary questions, I shall sit down.

President.—Suppose we promise to do a certain thing in one year, and after that one year you find that we have not done it. Then, you will ask us "Why did you not do it in the promised time?" When the subject is considered to be of importance, the Government will take the necessary action. What motive can the Government have in these matters?

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—I do not attribute any motive.

President.—We will try to complete the investigation at the earliest possible opportunity. That answer must satisfy you.

Mr. S. Nunez.—That is a very vague answer.

President.—If that answer does not satisfy you, I cannot help.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Government cannot hold out any assurance. That is not possible. It is a

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a very serious problem, and it has been baffling us for the last 50 or 100 years.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—It began in 1818.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—If the Member will come to me, I will satisfy him.

President.—A Member getting privately the information he wants and bringing that matter to the notice of this House are two different things. He may know all the facts. Still he puts questions, his intention being to make the House also understand how the matter stands. So this is to make a matter public. There is this aspect also to be considered.

Tiles for the P. W. D.

160. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) whether the tiles approved by the P. W. Department alone are used for Sirkar work;

(2) the nature of the test so made and the authority entrusted with the task;

(3) the names of the first 3 companies so approved and the name of the company from whom the largest quantity was purchased;

(4) whether the Sivakami Tile Works, Manali, is owned by the State salt contractor, Mr. Chettiar;

(5) whether the Sivakami Tile Works supplied goods other than their own for Sirkar works, whether it was detected, and how it was then disposed of;

(6) whether the said Sivakami Tile Works still enjoy the patronage of the D. P. W. despite all these;

(7) whether the test is annually done and patronage renewed;

(8) whether it was done this year also?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) Yes.

(2) (a) The nature of the clay used for the tile, the grinding, pressing and leaking and the breaking strength of the tile when soaked in water were tested.

(b) The Technical Branch of the P. W. D. Head Office under the direct supervision of the Chief Engineer.

(3) (a) Messrs. Sivakami Tile Works, and the Shoranur Tile Works for the whole State, St. Joseph's Tile Works, Oilur, for the Trichur Taluk and the Meenakshi Tile Works, Chittur, for the Chittur Taluk.

(b) The largest supply was made by Messrs. Sivakami Tile Works.

(4) No.

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